


# SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE

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- Revolutionary Youth p. 3
- Ontario: Kick out Ford p. 5
- Workers Need Real Pay Raise p. 6
- Polarization Comes to Canada p. 10

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**NO  
TO  
WAR**

**BUILD AN  
ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT**

# ABOUT SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE

## What We Stand For

### The Whole System is Rotten

We oppose capitalism's focus on profit before people and environment. Capitalism does not serve the interests of the vast majority of humanity.

- **Ensure jobs and a living wage for all.**
- **Put planet before profit:** fight climate change with a green jobs program.
- **Take the market out of housing:** for a mass program to build and renovate decent, safe and affordable public housing run by tenants' democracy.
- **Fight for health, education and services:** seize tax havens and drastically increase taxes on the rich and big corporations, to fully fund public services.
- **For fighting, democratic unions** run by and for the members to campaign for better pay and working conditions.
- **Respect and enforce existing Indigenous treaty and resource rights.**
- **Take into public ownership key sections of the economy** including banking, the internet, the energy industry, transportation and privately-owned utilities.

Join Socialist Alternative to help create a future free of exploitation and oppression, where people and the planet flourish. ★



Socialist Alternative Canada is part of International Socialist Alternative, active on all six continents.

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If you agree with the ideas in this magazine, join Socialist Alternative!

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## Socialist Alternative Youth: for Climate Justice

Chris Fofonoff, Allie Pev and Maurice Li

Climate change is the foremost political issue for young people. We are the ones who will live with the full horrors of climate change and environmental degradation unless the world changes course. Yet, nearly everyone in a position of power acknowledges the crisis *but does next to nothing to solve it* and often makes it worse.

This year in Vancouver, young workers, and university and school students in Socialist Alternative Youth (SAY) have been organizing for a livable future, opposing the Trans Mountain expansion (TMX) and the Coastal Gaslink pipelines. We've supported rallies called by the Tsleil-Waututh Nation Sacred Trust, Sustainabiliteens, and 350.org. SAY organized two protests in solidarity with Wet'suwet'en against RBC, Coastal Gas's biggest banker.

In mid-March, SAY realized that Vancouver's annual Earth Day march was not being organized (due to COVID) and decided to take it on. Our consistent solidarity at previous rallies stood us in good stead to pull it together, organizing a march and rally of 100 in East Vancouver on Saturday, April 23.

The march was led by Daughters of the Drum and chanted "No more oil, no more coal, Keep the carbon in the soil." The rally was opened with a welcome to the territory by Cedar George of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, who are at the forefront of defending the land and water from TMX. After more drumming there were powerful speeches from Unite Here workers fighting for their jobs, Vancouver's left-wing party COPE, 350SFU, Force of Nature and a New Westminster high school student. SAY members chaired and spoke reinforcing the calls to end fossil fuel projects, expropriate the banks profiting from climate chaos, and to rapidly transition to a green economy, with good jobs — demands that only revolutionary socialism can win.

Join Socialist Alternative Youth! ★



SAY led the Earth Day march in Vancouver

# Youth Need a Revolution

Meredith Paajanen and Rosanna Perchard

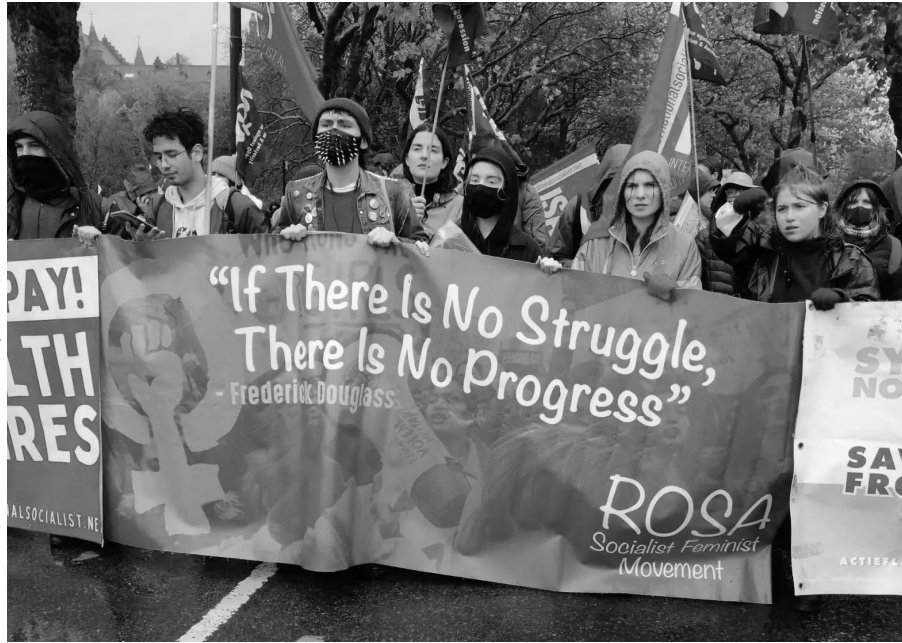
In recent years we have seen a major radicalization of youth. Youth nowadays aren't just attending protests, they're organizing major school walkouts, using socialist slogans, and are often main speakers at events. It's clear that a major movement led by youth is brewing, especially as they enter the workforce and gain the special leverage the proletariat has to challenge the bourgeois. Three issues are driving the radicalization of youth: education, housing, and climate.

Neoliberalism has caused massive cuts to the education system. Public schools are haemorrhaging teachers and infrastructure. High Schools often have so many things wrong with them that they are impossible to fix. As for "public" colleges and universities, gone are the days when the majority of their funding comes from the government.

Cuts to education funding have forced universities to rely on jacking up tuition for Canadian students and gouging foreign students to meet the extensive and expensive payroll of senior management. At the same time, more and more classes are delivered by insecure and underpaid sessional lecturers. Students and their teachers are struggling to make ends meet... where does all that tuition money go?

A few generations ago, university was a way for the middle class to get ahead through education. Today, we have to go into debt to get degrees that are considered essential to not live in poverty. In 2018, *Maclean's* magazine found that the average annual cost for post-secondary students who live at home is \$9,300, or \$20,000 per year for students who live independently. In 2015, 54 percent of students with bachelor's degrees ended up with student debt, and they owed an average of \$28,000.

The simple fact is that youth cannot afford housing. With minimum wage hovering around \$15 and average rents being \$2,000 in Toronto or \$2,200 in Vancouver, youth can barely afford rent, much less ever think about owning a home. It's common for youth to either live with their parents or multiple roommates. The number of Millennials who lived with their parents as young adults doubled from the previous generation, and that will increase again for Generation Z. Youth homelessness has been rising as well; today 20 percent of the homeless population in Canada are between 13 and 24, and they are the fastest growing segment. Hostility towards the homeless population from municipal governments makes such a life even more difficult to live.



Young people led the massive protest movement at COP26 in Glasgow

The climate crisis has also been a source of radicalization for youth. Youth are expected to plan for a future that they have been taught to dread. There is the acute sense that things cannot continue as they have been. Youth are capable of looking past the cycles of the market, into a future that is truly harrowing. A privileged few are wilfully destroying all chances of well-being for the youth so that they can live in luxury today. The callousness and indifference of the wealthy to our future is for many youth the gateway to realizing the key flaws of capitalism. They grow to understand the revolution as an act of self-preservation. They understand the ineffectuality of reformism because it is far too late to apply any kind of incrementalism.

Youth have a unique position as they are not yet invested in the system. Growing up in the age of information they are open to new ideas and receptive to socialism. They see the cracks in the capitalist system and are beginning to conceive an alternative.

There is an urgent need for revolutionary organization. Youth today need to prepare to lead the struggles tomorrow on the street and in their workplaces. Socialist Alternative Youth is an organization of young students and workers who take this task seriously. We teach and learn from each other while actively participating in and organizing struggle today. Join us and help build a movement that unites with workers of all ages, to destroy capitalism and fight for our future. ★

**For more information about Socialist Alternative Youth, check us out on**  
**Instagram: @socialistalternativeyouth**  
**Facebook: SocialistAlternativeYouth**

# Alberta: Behind Every Boom is a Bust

## — The Rollercoaster of Madness

Jared Blustein and Laura Blustein

Albertans' economy, livelihoods, and communities are again on the rollercoaster of the volatile oil economy. Oil prices are skyrocketing due to the war in Ukraine, pushing inflation to a 30-year high. While oil's soaring cost has added to working people's woes, it has boosted big oil's profits and created a budget surplus. Unfortunately, this windfall won't be invested in a meaningful jobs program linked to a transition to renewable energy, or restoring the damage to public services including education, health care, childcare and seniors' care.

The story is almost as old as the province, a constant cycle of dearth and plenty. In 2020 as COVID hit and global stock markets plummeted, oil prices were in a tailspin. This further devastated government finances already hit by pointless tax cuts to big business (who laid off many workers) and a wasted \$1.5 billion on the doomed Keystone pipeline. Faced with a soaring deficit, the tired hand of austerity again cut education, health care (in the midst of a pandemic!), pensions, disability services, community and cultural programs, and support for victims of violent crime.

Alberta led Canada in the loss of well-paid full-time jobs, yet the UCP government still found \$30 million a year for their embarrassing Energy War Room, highlighting their priority of corporate profits over Albertans and the planet.

The war in Ukraine produced a windfall budget for 2022, and Finance Minister Toews affirmed, "there's no doubt we're relying on the energy industry." This clearly demonstrates the cruelty of capitalism. Alberta's wealth is tied to the death and oppression of others; the oil economy dovetails with war. Still, Alberta's government continues to ride the rollercoaster of fossil fuel madness and climate disaster, rather than shift to clean energy and the stable jobs that would provide.

Alberta suffered both wild swings of oil prices and COVID policies. Premier Kenney zigzagged between the needs of public health and the anti-mask right wing of his party. This turmoil satisfied no one, resulted in one of the worst COVID rates in Canada, and made Kenney one of Canada's most unpopular



politicians.

Now Kenney is fighting for his political survival in the "Dis-United" Conservative Party's leadership ballot. In desperation he has called his opponents "lunatics" who are "trying to take over the asylum." However, neither Kenney nor his likely replacement, Brian Jean, will stand up for working-class Albertans.

Alberta needs to end putting corporate profits first. The priorities should be good jobs and services, communities and our planet. Albertans must stand up for ourselves, and join Socialist Alternative! ★

## Renters' Nightmare

Simon Schweitzer

Viewers of Superbowl 2022 were inundated with ads pushing cryptocurrency as the shiniest new opportunity for speculative investment. But in Canada the truly ascendant sign on the investors' chart is *real estate*. Since 2000, the price of a detached home in central Toronto has risen by 16 percent per year (now over \$2,000,000), almost four times faster than the Toronto Stock Exchange. Over the past two years, home prices nationwide rose by 46 percent.

"Investment" (read "speculation") in residential real estate is up 15.7 percent in the last three months of 2021. Real estate investors (who own property they don't live in) own 21 percent of Canada's homes, with the share rapidly increasing. In Ontario, 33 percent of homes built since 2016 are owned by investors, in BC it is 43 percent, and Bay Roberts, NL, at 92 percent, is the most extreme example.

Real estate investment is now 9.3 percent of Canada's GDP, rising on pace to surpass the record 10.2 percent of a year ago. But while one star radiates brighter another must dim and fade; the fading one is investment in the productive economy. Since 2001, investment in Real Estate has moved in the opposite direction to Equipment and Machinery, as manufacturing investment has



"Please God, give us another oil boom, we promise not to piss it away this time"

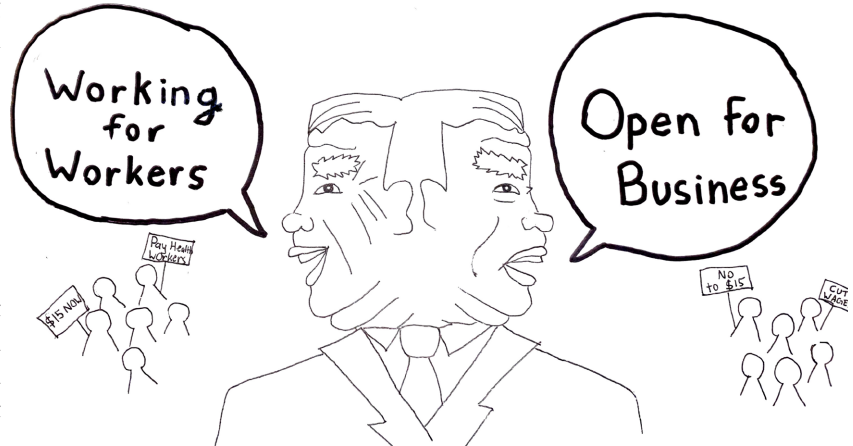
# Ontario: Kick Out Ford

Tim Heffernan

Ontario goes to the polls on June 2. Doug Ford must go. Yet, this seems unlikely with the polls giving him a clear lead. How, after four years of U-turns, cutting services, gaffes and COVID shambles, is this possible?

Somehow, Ford has led a charmed life over these years. He started off with policies to boost profits, saying Ontario was “Open for business.” With this aim, he scrapped the scheduled minimum wage increase, calling it a “a job killer,” and eliminated two paid sick days. He went on to cut health care and attack teachers. Not surprisingly he was booed at Toronto’s championship reception for the Raptors. In 2021 he limited public sector pay increases to one percent over three years, while inflation soared.

His pandemic performance was, at best, erratic. Before the 2020 March school break, he told families to “have fun” and “go away.” He then presided over the desperate situation in long-term care homes with far worse death rates in private for-profit homes, some needing the army to go in to clear up the mess. He is good at populist one-liners, such as promising to “come after” COVID profiteering, although much weaker on delivery. His folksy, “common man” style helped to



Which is the real Doug Ford?

mitigate his many stumbles.

## Two-Faced Ford

As the election approaches, Ford has a new slogan “Working for Workers.” Under public pressure, he belatedly increased the minimum wage to \$15 and re-established paid sick days, although the three days are “paid infectious disease emergency leave” and are only temporary until the end of 2022. Scandalously, union leaders Jerry Dias (former head of Unifor) and Smokey Thomas (Ontario public service union) bolstered Ford’s new image as the workers’ friend by sharing his platform at the announcement of the minimum wage increase.

The pre-election budget includes major infrastructure, a few crumbs for low paid workers and nothing for the environment except new highways.

As well as good luck and friendly union leaders, Ford has been helped by the NDP’s lacklustre performance. In the 2018 election, the Liberals finished a poor third place behind the NDP with only 7 seats. The NDP’s consistent failure to campaign between elections gave the Liberals space to recover. Now, with a virtual unknown leader, opinion polls have the Liberals and NDP tied at 27 percent. This split in the anti-Ford vote would give him another four years, to go back to attacking workers, public services and the environment.

It is not too late — election campaigns matter. In six weeks in the 2015 election, Trudeau took the Liberals from third place to winning with the promise of bold change. The NDP is leading among young people. If the youth are inspired by a bold platform and dynamic campaigning, they can reach every part of the province and win the support of older workers, as Corbyn’s, Sanders’ and Mélenchon’s campaigns showed. Union leaders must abandon their dangerous tactic of supporting the Liberals in some cases. This is the best path both to victory and to begin building socialist policies in Ontario. ★

## — Organize

declined from 16 percent to 9 percent.

The consequences of this economic overreliance on real estate speculation seems to defy logic: more new homes (244,025 in 2021, up 21 percent year over year), and at the same time higher property values, more evictions, and growing homelessness.

Many speculative landlords buy property at over market values and then push up the rent. If there is some rent control, they push out long-term tenants and then raise the rent. In New Brunswick, without rent controls, tenants faced rent hikes of 40, 50 or 75 percent from new landlords, until the province recently brought in some controls. In Nova Scotia, where 48 percent of new buildings are owned by investors, many tenants, including long-term renters and pensioners, received eviction notices on March 21, 2022, the day that eviction bans expired. As long as speculation drives new construction it will never meet the needs of most people.

A mass movement from below is needed to protect renters and force the federal and provincial governments to invest in building large amounts of social housing. ★

# Quality Childcare Vital

Aiden Sisler

Liberal and provincial governments have promised, but not delivered, childcare for so long that many parents have given up. Thousands of families, with their kids on endless waiting lists, are left scrambling to cobble together education and care. COVID made everything worse as women, again, were forced to leave their jobs *en masse* to care for kids, elders and others or else do the double shift — work a job then do domestic duties to sustain the next generation, other family members, and themselves.

Childcare is the second most expensive living cost after housing. While most politicians give lip service to subsidized places, the roll out of \$10 a Day Childcare has been glacial and only a fraction of the needed places are available.

Childcare staff are burning out, forced to leave a profession many deeply love, due to untenable working conditions, made even worse by COVID, with little support, or access to sick leave, PPE, basic sanitation supplies or time for cleaning.

Most childcare workers, 78.5 percent, are non-unionized. Their low pay and few benefits result in high turnover. Leading the US's unionization wave are 45,000 workers who formed Child Care Providers United in California. Their first collective agreement, 17 years in the making, included a 15 percent wage increase and 200,000 subsidized places. Québec's early childhood educators and staff won improved wages and conditions, mobilizing parents and coordinating three unions to strike against the government.

Pressure is growing for governments to deliver on their promises and, ideally, provide a nationalized childcare plan with good union jobs. However, big business will resist the power of workers, parents and families, always seeking to undercut and outsource care, the social regeneration of the working class, as costs cut into their profits. If women were paid even a minimum wage for unpaid domestic and care work, it would be a whopping \$10.8 trillion annually, worth three times the tech sector.

Childcare is invaluable, as every parent and person who has helped raise a little human knows. It's up to the working class to fight against capitalism that devalues and commodifies childhood, for it is we who are responsible for caring for humanity.★

# Workers Need Real Pay Raise

Davis Hay

In March, Canada's inflation rate reached a high of 6.7 percent, the highest increase since January 1991. It was 5.7 percent in February. There are multiple factors driving soaring prices, including supply chain disruption, climate change hitting food production, war, soaring oil prices and speculative bubbles.

Statistics Canada says energy price increases are due to "uncertainty surrounding global oil supply," referring to the impact of imperialist conflict between the US and NATO on one side, and China and Russia on the other, which is behind the war in Ukraine. However, the cost of producing oil in Canada has not increased, so the oil companies are making super profits on soaring world price hikes. The jump in oil prices makes moving freight, travel and heating homes all more expensive.

Food inflation at 7.4 percent is the highest in years. The war in Ukraine has hit grain supplies hard as Russia and Ukraine accounted for 30 percent of the world's wheat supply. Last year's drought on the Canadian Prairies is also contributing to a 38 percent drop in wheat production. Housing costs have gone up 6.6 percent during the past year — blame market speculation and profiteering landlords.

None of these drivers of inflation are due to workers. As pay raises are *not* keeping up with inflation, living standards are falling. Wages need to rise to keep with prices.

The minimum wage across Canada is woefully inadequate, as low as \$11.81 in Saskatchewan and as high as \$16.00 in Nunavut, with BC, Alberta, Yukon, NWT, all at least a \$15 an hour. Socialist Alternative states that the minimum wage needs to be at least \$20

an hour to survive. Even at that level it would not be a living wage in many cities. Once the minimum wage is at \$20 it should be tied to the rate of inflation.

Unions need to re-open contracts demanding a Cost-of-Living Allowance that automatically increases wages with inflation, so living standards are not eroded by soaring prices.

Workers need a truly living wage in order to be able to afford both the needs and wants of life — not just bread, but roses too!★



Protest for childcare at the Ontario Legislature

# Life of a Starbucks "Partner"

"We don't need a union. We're a family here!"

Anti-union talk is common at Starbucks from managers or shift-leads hoping to be a manager, claiming "only to make conversation." "Family," "Community," and "Safe Space" are always used. With the current union drive, Starbucks is afraid. With their conditions, they should be.

I was a Starbucks barista trying to pay my way through university. Daily "Updates" from head office describe Starbucks' "benefits," such as the CUP program where workers donate to make sure that other workers can afford to eat. We subsidize fellow workers whose hours are cut. All "partners" ("employee" is too coarse) are required to read each newsletter.

It was usually busy all day, working flat out as "an eight-hour shift means eight hours on the floor, after all." Management saves costs by cutting the team by one person. At such a fast pace, burns are common. Most people had scars, including myself, from the ovens or steaming milk. Genital burns are the worst; one manager made you work until your break — to keep their metrics high.

Commonly, workers were in the backroom crying from stress. As we enforced mask restrictions, we received abuse. I was spat at, elbowed, and kicked. Verbal abuse was more common, and often Starbucks did little. After we reported

slurs against Asian and Indigenous co-workers, the district management shrugged it off, telling us to simply get over it.

At the close of the day, workers do what Starbucks calls "clean play," working with harsh chemicals and cleaning until finished, around midnight.

Complaints don't work as often it's against the management and shift-leads. Sexual harassment and assault are common. After a shift-lead put their hand down my pants hemline, I raised it with management. The manager simply shrugged and said that I'd need to get over it. Until I left Starbucks, I had to work with that person fearful that I'd be harassed, as I needed every paycheque.

If Starbucks is a "family" and workers are "partners," this is an abusive relationship.

Every Starbucks worker deserves better conditions. Unionizing Starbucks is the way to win a safe and harassment-free workplace, and better pay!★

# What Makes Me Angry: Subsidies



Larry Hyink

Recently, the non-profit Stand.Earth reported that the BC government paid close to \$2 billion in fossil fuel subsidies in 2021. This, in the same year the province experienced massive wildfires costing over \$500 million to fight and \$77 million in "insured damages," plus the loss of the town of Lytton. A few months later, atmospheric rivers brought massive flooding with \$450 million in "insured damage" and estimated rebuilding costs of close to \$9 billion. And the heat dome massacred close to 600 people.

By the way, the difference in *insured* damage and *real* damage is because the Insurance Industry is a capitalist enterprise like a casino. You are betting that you *will* be burned or flooded out and they are betting you won't. Obviously, to make a profit, insurers have to be pretty sure you won't hit the jackpot and require a payout so if you live in an area that is "at risk," they will either make premiums unaffordable or simply refuse to insure at all, meaning individuals and governments pick up the tab.

At the same time that the Canadian and BC governments are using billions of taxpayer dollars to subsidize the destruction of the planet for the benefit of "free enterprise," they have pledged to invest "as much as \$134 million" in "clean tech" projects in 2022. In the arcane lingo of capitalism, this is called "fiscal responsibility"

and a "balanced approach."

Obviously, the logic of this sense of priorities flows from the apparently deep-seated conviction among politicians (even the so-called "socialist" NDP) that there is no such thing as an economy unless things are run for the benefit of a handful of greedy capitalists. Their interests come first, as government spending shows, and, if your house is toast, well, that's your responsibility. After all, you made the "lifestyle choice" to get born on a planet where the biosphere is bulldozed so that some zillionaire can spend a few minutes starring in the latest episode of "Clowns in Space."

It's long past time to heal our wounded planet and brutalized populations. This can only be done if we build a system based on recognizing the needs of our world and our peoples and that has as its goal the welfare, aspirations, security and dignity of everyone: genuine socialism.★



Demonstration in support of Starbucks workers forming unions in the United States

Many people are wondering, “how to stop the war in Ukraine?” The disastrous humanitarian crisis has caused thousands of civilian deaths, over 10,000 military casualties, and massive destruction of homes, schools, hospitals, and workplaces. In late April, at least 5.3 million people have fled Ukraine and 7.7 million have been internally displaced.

The crisis has led to calls for increased sanctions against Russia and an escalation of NATO involvement and military support to Ukraine. International Socialist Alternative, while unequivocally opposing the Russian invasion, believes these measures will not end the war. We point to international working-class solidarity and anti-war resistance as the only force that can prevent a slide towards wider conflict.

## No to War and Imperialism

NATO is a military organization that represents the interests of US and western imperialism. US forces have been used to violently suppress democratic movements and independence struggles, such as in Algeria, Vietnam and the Congo. NATO mercilessly bombed Libya, leaving a broken country, still racked by civil war ten years later. It also led a 20-year failed mission in Afghanistan. The historical record shows that NATO does not defend “freedom and democracy;” instead, it defends US and western imperialism.

Other current wars, such as in Yemen and Ethiopia, get much less sympathy, publicity or propaganda (in the early 2000s, the lies of Bush and Blair that Iraq had “weapons of mass destruction” were widely repeated). Why are other wars ignored? Ukraine is of strategic concern to western imperialism, while Yemen and Ethiopia are not.

NATO’s expansion eastward was a major cause of the current crisis. This expansion wasn’t a neutral process in which independent countries simply “decided” to join. Imperialist blocs, led by stronger economies, seek to dominate weaker economies for privileged access to profits. The war in Ukraine is part of the US-China cold war in which Russia and China recently signed a cooperation agreement. In Eastern Europe, countries are coerced into picking a side, where any gain in influence by one bloc is a loss for the other.

Socialists are opposed to both sides of the inter-imperialist conflict. We stand in solidarity with the working classes of all countries and against their imperialist ruling classes.

Any escalation of the military conflict in Ukraine, including the enforcement of a no-fly zone, threatens direct conflict between Russia and NATO countries, risking a catastrophic expansion of the war, possibly even the use of nuclear weapons.

## Canada’s role in NATO

Canada has participated in every NATO operation



*Destruction in Mariupol, Ukraine, on the the Sea of Azov since its founding in 1949. Over 100,000 Canadian troops were stationed in Europe as part of NATO missions up to the early 1990s, and a Canadian general led the 2011 bombing of Libya.*

Canada has given Ukraine more training and funding than any other country. Former prime minister Jean Chrétien pushed for Ukraine to join NATO despite promises made to Russia that NATO would not expand eastward. Canadian troops have been in Ukraine since 2014, after the Euromaidan protests and the rise of Russian separatist movements. Canada has spent \$900 million to train the Ukrainian military since 2015. Canada’s motives were not to establish peace, but to help defeat the pro-Russian separatists. This heightened tensions with Russian imperialism.

Since the invasion began, Canada has sent \$110 million in weapons to Ukraine; its 2022 budget allows for \$500 million in increased military spending. But just as the Canadian military involvement did not prevent the war, more weapons and troops will not establish peace.

## Economic Sanctions

While the sanctions against Russia are supposedly targeted against Putin and the rich oligarchs that control the country, in reality, the oligarchs can pass on the sanctions’ impact to working-class people in Russia. Sanctions have prevented ordinary people from getting medications and from using virtual payments to buy food. There are shortages of staples in the supermarket, and over 100,000 people have lost their jobs.

Sanctions risk strengthening Putin politically. Putin argues that the West has declared war on the people of Russia and that he is defending them. Some polls show that his popularity has increased in response to western sanctions (although the polls’ reliability is questionable).



# Anti-War Movement

and Leslie Kemp

## Right of the Ukrainian people to self-determination and self-defence

Contrary to Putin's claim that the Ukrainian nation does not exist, socialists defend the right of the Ukrainian people and ethnic minorities within Ukraine to national self-determination. We support the right of the Ukrainian people to armed defence against the Russian military but not sending military aid to the Zelensky government, which does not represent the interests of the majority of the Ukrainian people.

War is not just about weapons: it's about politics and morale. The Vietnamese people defeated the most advanced military in the world. The morale of Russian troops is low, many do not want to fight. A socialist Ukraine would appeal to them to stop fighting. This would devastate Putin's army and with the mood spreading into Russia, threaten Putin's rule.

A military victory by the Zelensky government would be a victory for a far-right government that would oppress workers. Before the invasion, Zelensky worked to curtail workers' rights to organize. One of his first measures after the war began was to ban strikes. The Zelensky government has embraced the neo-Nazi Azov battalion and integrated it into the Ukrainian military.

We call for the formation of democratically controlled defence committees independent of the Zelensky government and organized along multi-ethnic lines that reflect the national and cultural diversity of Ukraine.

## A working-class movement to end the war

The only way to end the war without a further military escalation is a mass international anti-war movement. The first world war was ended, not by negotiations, but by soldiers refusing to fight after the Russian Revolution in 1917, followed by the mutiny of German sailors and soldiers, and then a revolution in 1918. The Vietnam war was ended by the resistance of US troops and fears of an implosion in US society. After a mass anti-war strike of 36 million people in 1969, *TIME* declared: "True, some industries profit from the war. But investors are well aware that... the Vietnam War aggravates social tensions that are bad for business."



Mass demonstration in Berlin, 1919. The placard reads "All power to the worker-soldier councils"

A movement opposing the war and military intervention in the west could link up with the anti-war movement in Russia. A domestic anti-war movement would seriously threaten Putin's regime and put pressure on him to withdraw troops. Putin's regime fears the anti-war movement and has unleashed extreme repression on protestors, with over 15,000 arrested since the invasion began. Ordinary Russians continue to bravely protest the invasion despite repression. They need solidarity and support.

In March, unionized British port workers refused to unload Russian oil from a German ship against UK government policy. If these kinds of independent working-class actions were coordinated across borders, including with anti-war protestors and defence councils in Russia, and strategically directed against the Russian war effort, it could end the war.



Anti-war protest on Nevsky Prospekt, St. Petersburg

## Wider context

The world has entered a new era of inter-imperialist rivalries and militarism. The war in Ukraine is a theatre in the ongoing US-China cold war. Xi Jinping does not want an escalation of the conflict, but neither does he want a defeat of Putin. The sanctions and economic warfare are accelerating the trends of decoupling and deglobalization of the world economy into competing imperialist camps. Further economic crises due to supply chain disruptions and inflation will follow.

Countries around the world, including Canada, are increasing military spending, and countries like Sweden and Finland are applying to join NATO. This is in the midst of an ongoing climate crisis, while militaries are among the worst contributors to climate change and waste: nearly \$2 trillion of world GDP each year.

All this — money, carbon emissions, and human lives — are expended so that factions of the world's tiny ruling class can fight each other in the pursuit of profit. But wars have been ended by working-class solidarity, and they will be again.

Capitalism cannot create lasting peace and prosperity for the majority of people. Only through workers seizing power internationally can a future of war, conflict and environmental destruction be averted. There is an urgent necessity to forge a truly international world party of revolution — one capable of leading the struggle to change the world. ★



*The so-called freedom convoy occupied downtown Ottawa*

The “freedom” convoy has faded into the background. The war in Ukraine, inflation, and warmer weather are top of mind. But the convoy provoked a decisive change in Canadian society and politics that will not go away.

The right wing is pumped as they successfully spurred a section of society to the right. Tory MPs supported the convoy, kicked out their “moderate” leader O’Toole and chose right-wing Candice Bergen as interim leader.

A few thousand protesters stuck a chord with millions of desperate Canadians. Deep anger and alienation existed before the convoy. For more than two years Canadians have been battered by COVID, climate disasters, economic insecurity and now inflation and a brutal war in Ukraine. The world feels very insecure and, for many, frightening.

The start of the pandemic saw a mood of unity and solidarity, but millions of Canadians were worn down by governments’ COVID failures and flip-flops. Years of cuts and privatization left hospitals and seniors’ care over-stretched and breaking.

The rich and corporations got richer during the pandemic; Canada’s billionaires gained \$78 billion in one year. Governments pandered to big businesses, letting them stay open without adequate protection for the workers, while workers and small businesses got hit hard. A third of workers, and half of young people, feel burnt out.

The reality is skyrocketing inflation, unaffordable housing, stagnant wages and soaring inequality. People are torn, wanting a return to normal, but also recognizing there is no normal. Increasingly Canadians, especially young people, feel dissatisfied and two-thirds fear for the future of Canada.

## Grave Mistake

It is a grave mistake for the NDP and union leaders to assume that everything is back to normal since the convoy ended. All the factors behind the convoy’s support and the shift to the right still exist.

Most Canadians smugly believed that Trump and strident right-wing populism wouldn’t happen here. Socialist Alternative warned in 2019: “While compared

to other countries, Canada seems quiet; yet the anger and tensions continue to grow. Like a tightly-wound spring, at some point the potential energy becomes a reality. Right populism feeds on despair and frustrations, ... it is rising in Canada.”

Canada’s growing polarization has erupted with the right taking the initiative. As society polarizes, people move to both the left and the right. Unfortunately, in Canada there is no strong left-wing pole, as the union and NDP leaders fail to put forward bold policies to answer the widespread anger and alienation. Instead, the NDP is supporting the Liberal government for the next three years.

When smaller left-wing parties support larger, more centrist parties it usually results in the smaller one losing support as it gets the blame, and the bigger party claims the benefits. After the NDP’s past deals with minority Liberal governments, in 1974 and 2006, the NDP lost support. More importantly, the current deal means there is no left voice to counter the rising right-wing shouts.

## The Centre Cannot Hold

Yeats, in 1919 at the start of the Irish Civil War and during the flu pandemic, wrote a poem with the line: “Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold.” The world today is in turmoil and the centre cannot hold.

Many centrist parties have lost support and even disappeared such as in Italy, Scotland and Greece. In France, the leftish Socialists and rightish Republicans dominated for decades. Yet, in the first round of the 2022 Presidential elections, their combined vote was only 6.5 percent. French society is splitting to the right and left. Far-right Le Pen won 23 percent. Left-wing Mélenchon won 22 percent. If the small far-left parties had supported him he would have beat Le Pen. The centrist Macron only got 28 percent.

Faced with a disintegrating “centre” due to mounting pressures and crises, a new right-wing populism has emerged almost everywhere. The newly vibrant and energized far right puts forward a strange



*Counter-protestors blocked the convoy in the “Battle of Billings Bridge”*

# Comes to Canada

Hopwood



Rally in support of Mélenchon, left-wing candidate for president of France

brew of anti-elite pro-ordinary people rhetoric and actions that attack various “others” who allegedly are threatening a fictional normality — feminists, migrants, environmentalists, people of different religions, languages or ethnicities, or some other scapegoat. This mix, in its beguiling simplicity, is intoxicating for some, while toxic to many.

The liberals on the other hand cling to the disappearing centre, despairing of the circumstances, bemoaning the loss of the past “stability” and “normality,” and looking to the future with dread. The mainstream left, leaders of political parties and most unions, prop up the failing liberals.

When the left has bold politics such as around Corbyn, Sanders and Mélenchon, it generates widespread energy and enthusiasm and demonstrates the huge potential of a radical program.

The mainstream left claims it needs to support liberals to stop the right. The idea of “lesser evilism” often does not work. In 2016 Sanders and others said they had to support Clinton to stop Trump — it failed. Even when the right is stopped such as by the Democrats in 2021, their failure to deliver real change is paving the way to a new right-wing Republican victory.

## **Polarization Comes to Canada**

Canada has avoided the degree of polarization seen in Europe and the US, but this is changing as Canadians seek radical solutions.

The Liberals can still win elections. Most Canadians are not right-wing and were critical of the convoy. The Tories’ shift to a more strident right wing may help the Liberals in the short-term. The Liberals and the NDP will most likely win the most seats in the next federal election and proclaim their moderate politics are working. This is short-term and dangerous as society’s anger has not gone away — it will reemerge.

The weakness of the left makes the right seem strong and popular. If there is only one voice, that voice can seem strong. The right populists are filling the space with no counter from the left. Powerful unions and a

party that put forward socialist policies would fill that space and gain support.

Eventually, as the Liberals run out of steam and their failures multiply, their voters will stay at home. Trudeau won in 2015 promising change, but wages are still stagnant, and rents and house prices have soared. The Liberals are the party of the status quo at a time when young and working-class people are increasingly frustrated. The populist right has simplistic answers that can have a powerful appeal. There is a real danger that without bold leadership on the left the centrist Liberals, supported by the NDP, will open the door to a right-populist government.

## **Face Reality**

The capitalists will become more desperate as they thrash around trying to solve the multiple contradictions of their system and the fundamental contradiction between capitalism and the needs of humanity and nature. The world economy has stumbled from one recession to the next, is awash with speculative bubbles and cannot use technology to benefit humanity. War is an outcome of capitalism’s tensions and contradictions. After 200 years of capitalism’s robbing of nature, multiple ecologic systems are in danger of collapse and the world faces a climate disaster.

Capitalism is the root cause of these contradictions so solving them within capitalism is impossible. The contradictions must be overcome by humans interacting with each other and nature in a new way, based on cooperation among people and stewardship of the earth — socialism.

Workers need unions that fight for real pay raises and safe working conditions. The NDP should stop propping up the Liberals federally, and in BC enact bold working-class policies.

If the highly profitable banks, energy companies and utilities were taken into public ownership, alongside steep increases on taxes on the rich and corporations, it would unleash the wealth to provide good jobs, affordable housing and childcare, real action on the environment with a Just Transition, and decent public services. Workplace democracy would ensure safe conditions and more effective use of resources.

Building a strong working-class movement with policies that address ordinary people’s worsening conditions would cut across support for the populist right.

The first responsibility of Marxists is to face reality honestly. The world can seem a scary place. But if we can break free of the cage of capital, a safe future with rewarding work and good living standards without oppression would be available for all and society would live in harmony with nature.

If you agree with these ideas join Socialist Alternative.★

# US-China Cold War Drives Economic Instability

*William LeBlanc and Bill Hopwood*

As US capitalism seeks to maintain its economic domination against rising Chinese capitalism, the US-China cold war is constantly shifting to new horizons. The drive to secure the role of the leading superpower is pushing most of the world into two increasingly hostile blocks. Globalization is long gone, replaced by an evermore polarized and nationalistic world.

This is the dominant feature of today's global economy. Biden did not end the rivalry with China after Trump, instead he ramped up confrontation to defend the interests and profits of US corporations.

US-China tensions are behind most of Biden's foreign policy. The withdrawal from Afghanistan ended a futile war to re-focus US efforts in the Pacific region. The Democrats have worked to fix relations with the EU after Trump. Biden held a "Summit of Democracy" welcoming many dictators. These moves by Western politicians and big business aren't a shift towards international cooperation or peace. They are a change of focus, to shore up support for the US and NATO as the dominant international power. This approach means continued international confrontation between US and Chinese capitalism.

Putin's invasion of Ukraine, likely greenlighted by the misnamed Chinese Communist Party (CCP), will kick all of these trends into overdrive. Behind NATO's war with Russia is the US-China conflict. The sanctions on Russia are a warning of what might happen to China.

## Threats to Xi's Rule

For the CCP, present politics are personified by Xi Jinping and his "strong man" rule. Xi fears that showing any weakness could erode confidence in his leadership and the entire CCP. At the twentieth CCP congress later in 2022, Xi plans to extend and cement his rule. For this reason, Xi is completely unable to back down on Hong Kong "reunification," the mass repression of the Uighurs in Xinjiang, propping up Putin, or threats to Taiwan.

At home, the CCP's rule faces a myriad of threats. China's economy got a short boost as it reopened from COVID in the summer of 2020. Since then, things have turned much worse. The official growth target for this year is 5.5 percent, the lowest in decades, and wildly

optimistic. The property market makes up 30 percent of China's GDP (twice the size of the US property market before the 2008 crash) and is going through a slow-motion crisis with 91 million empty units and major developer Evergrande (and other property corporations) heading to collapse. Adding to all of this, China's total debt is 300 percent of GDP.

In the face of a sharply declining population after decades of the one-child policy, Xi's government is pushing a return to "traditional" family values and is restricting abortion rights. Alongside this are attempts to ban feminist and LGBTQ groups and web pages. There is growing resistance from young women. Homosexuality is effectively being made illegal once again with a ban on "sissy-boy" popstars and celebrities, and universities compiling registers of gay students for the government.

On top of all of this, the government is in tangles over its zero-COVID policy. If it continues, it will produce mounting opposition and damage the economy. Shanghai's lockdown of 25 million people provoked widespread anger and cut China's economic growth. Ending the policy risks a huge loss of face and a collapse of the Chinese healthcare system (as happened in Hong Kong).

## Workers' Movements

The war over Ukraine and, behind it, the US-China conflict has struck serious blows to the fragile world economy with soaring inflation, disrupted supply chains and the risk of speculative bubbles bursting. In China, the US and worldwide, capitalism's future for working-class people is grim — war, inequality, stagnant living standards, oppression and the climate disaster.

In the US there is a rising wave of workers' struggles. In China there is the potential for serious mass movements from women, workers and young people. The working class, as the producers of all the wealth and goods in society, has enormous power. Workers have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win!★

**For more information on China: [chinaworker.info/en/](http://chinaworker.info/en/)**



# US: Union Wave Grows While Democrats Fail

*Greyson Van Arsdale*

This year has been defined by bold new organizing of unorganized workers. Starbucks workers exploded onto the scene late last year with two union elections won in Buffalo. Since then, over 200 stores nationally have filed for union elections, and over 25 more have won their votes. This wave of organizing has spread to numerous independent coffee shops and cafés, notably in Boston and Philadelphia.

The organizing movement is spreading. In a watershed moment for the labor movement, 8,000 Amazon workers at the Staten Island warehouse won their union vote at the end of March. A nearby sorting facility will have its own vote in early May, putting a huge amount of pressure on the newly formed Amazon Labor Union (ALU) to deliver a second victory.

Both Starbucks and Amazon workers are facing ramped-up anti-union tactics from the bosses, including captive audience meetings and intimidating 2-on-1 manager meetings. Lead workers are having their hours severely cut in an attempt to force them to quit, and others are simply being fired. Former Amazon worker and ALU President Chris Smalls was arrested by police for agitating for a union inside a warehouse.

Despite this, workers are gaining momentum. The movement is quickly grappling with what demands to fight for, what tactics to use to beat back retaliatory firing, and how to win a good first contract.

## Failing Democrats

In contrast to this growing labor wave, the Democrats continue to stumble and fail. Biden's failure to deliver on many economic promises such as a \$15 minimum wage and parental leave, soaring inflation and COVID shambles are all hitting the Democrats' support. The early vaccination success has slowed drastically, with less than two-thirds of people fully vaccinated. Instead of ramping up a vaccination campaign, the Biden administration decided there is no money to buy a fourth round of vaccines, and funds for COVID tests and vaccines has run out. The uninsured will now have to pay over \$100 to get a test or vaccine.

With the Democratic Party's failures, the right wing is attacking reproductive rights and LGBTQ+ youth in many states. Abortion rights are under threat as later this year the conservative Supreme Court will likely overturn or severely undermine *Roe v. Wade*. Many states are set to ban abortion as soon as *Roe* is overturned and without *Roe* court challenges to anti-abortion laws could fall flat. A recent Texas law allows citizens to turn in people they suspect of having or even aiding an abortion and then sue that person for at least \$10,000.

Simultaneously, state legislatures have introduced hundreds of bills this year alone attacking queer and trans youth, the most notorious being Florida's "Don't Say Gay." This bill bans discussion of gender and

sexuality in certain grades at school and can be interpreted to apply to all grades. After a directive from Texas Governor Abbott, the state has classified medical treatments for trans adolescents as "child abuse," causing hospitals to pull services. Parents can also be prosecuted for supporting their child's desire to transition.

While Biden has denounced



*Socialist Alternative member Kshama Sawant speaks at rally in support of Amazon union vote*

the attacks on trans youth and abortion, the Democratic Party has done nothing to federally protect access to gender-affirming procedures or abortion. So far, the major national women's organizations, with ties to the Democrats, have failed to call big mobilizations to defend abortion.

## Fight for Rights

Socialist Alternative, including our councillor Kshama Sawant, is actively supporting workers' union drives and picket lines, and defending women and LGBTQ+ rights.

With global capitalism in crisis, the right wing advancing, and the failures of the Democratic Party on full display, the American working class is under an intensifying pressure. Workers have not taken this situation lying down — along with the explosion of new labor organizing, there have been limited walkouts among youth against the reactionary attacks on the bodily autonomy of women and queer people. The question now is how working people can broaden and deepen this struggle, not just beating back these attacks but pushing forward to win serious gains and a world free from oppression. ★

**For more information on Socialist Alternative in the US: [socialistalternative.org](http://socialistalternative.org).**

## Why We Need Socialism and How to Win It!

Online Public Meeting  
Featuring *Kshama Sawant*  
Socialist Alternative  
City Councillor from Seattle  
Sunday, May 15 on Zoom



# A Page from History: Québec's 1972 Common Front General Strike

Martin LeBrun

The Common Front was a high point in Canadian union militancy during a time of powerful social movements, rising inflation and unemployment, and wage freezes under provincial and federal Liberal governments.

Québec's public sector unions formed the Common Front, uniting 84 percent of the workers, in 1972. The unity of workers and demands increased their negotiating power with the province. The Common Front flowed from the Québec workers' recent struggles during the Quiet Revolution, overcoming decades of right-wing domination and poor working and living conditions.

Without a contract for a year, 210,000 workers voted 75 percent for strike action, holding a 24-hour strike in March. Premier Bourassa refused to budge. Common Front workers responded with a 10-day strike, the biggest in Canadian history! Bourassa counterattacked with a back-to-work order with threats of fines and jail time. The three labour federation presidents, Louis Laberge, Marcel Pepin and Yvon Charbonneau, were sentenced to a year in prison for defiance. In total, 103 workers were sentenced to 24 years of prison and fined half a million dollars.

Demanding the presidents' release, over 300,000 workers held a week-long, province-wide general strike in both public and private sectors. In some towns workers spoke of occupying and controlling job sites and occupied radio and television stations and broadcast their demands.

The workers' revolt forced a government retreat. The union leaders were released after serving four months. The Common Front crushed the wage freeze, winning a \$100 a week minimum salary, raising the income of 50,000 low-paid workers, and led to similar gains in the private sector. It also won automatic cost-of-living increases, a crucial victory with soaring inflation. Additionally, workers won indexed pensions, improved job security and reduced pay discrimination.

The Common Front opened new avenues of union solidarity at a time when rising unemployment contributed to divided and competing unions. Union members made greater gains by working together.

The idea of the Common Front remains a powerful force in Québec's public sector negotiations. Victory in 1972 was based on determined action, militant grassroots organizing, solidarity among workers and defying anti-union laws. Today, workers face growing inflation while bosses' profits soar. In 2022, union members should remember 1972! ★



## Bad Law

by John Reilly  
reviewed by Allie Pev

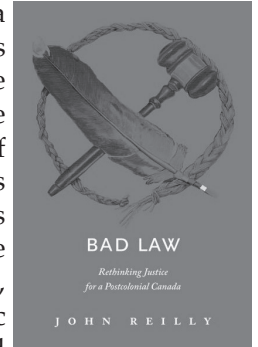
John Reilly was an Alberta Provincial judge for 33 years and for most of this time he served an area that included the Stoney Nakoda reserve, west of Calgary. *Bad Law* concludes his trilogy on his career. After years of uncritically adhering to the colonial criminal legal system, Reilly became a controversial critic of both the reserve's social and living conditions and alleged political corruption and financial mismanagement. *Bad Law* focuses on Reilly's dream of a system that heals harm through fully utilizing and funding Indigenous legal traditions rather than clinging to an archaic and violent legal system.

Socialist Alternative agrees that society's views of offenders and drug users is ignorant and vindictive, with little consideration for victims in criminal proceedings. The obscenely expensive criminal legal system is archaic, and the money would be better spent funding treatment centres, childcare and raising welfare rates. Most importantly, we agree that Indigenous legal traditions need to be respected and implemented at all levels.

Reilly falls short by speaking solely to the role of the criminal legal system. He mentions the desperate need for proper infrastructure and clean water on reserves, but his dream mostly focuses on transforming the criminal legal system — a change that can only come from the complete transformation of society. The state will not fundamentally overhaul law enforcement, courts and prisons, as these defend the ruling class's control of property and profit. It is a solid arm of state power. Just look at the disproportionate number of Indigenous people in custody and violent arrests of land defenders in Canada.

Reilly resists accepting the deep racism of Canadian society. In his critique of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Women and Girls he asserts that if "every one of the murders could be solved, we would probably learn that the majority of the victimizers were other Indigenous people." He ignores the connection between proximity to resource extraction projects, "man camps" and higher rates of violence against women and girls by non-Indigenous men, and the deep racism in society and the police.

Reilly proclaims his dream to be utopian — we and Indigenous nations would disagree. Pre-contact Indigenous nations flourished peacefully following their traditions and ways of healing harm. Capitalism interrupted this system: we must therefore do away with the whole capitalist system. ★



# Imagine: Life that is Good for You

Lev Lynds

So how would a Socialist world be different?

Imagine waking up in 2072, after successful revolutions had launched a worldwide wave of transformations of society, work and health. Democratic decisions in work, school and the community put human well-being first, with the goal of achieving “from each according to their ability, to each according to their needs.”

Work is in a healthy environment, free of pollution, dangers, harassment and abuse. People are valued and contribute what they can to society without the threat of destitution. Work is interesting and rewarding. Cities are green with trees and parks, and everyone has access to nature.

Greed and billionaires no longer exist. The unending drive for ever more profits for a tiny handful is the root cause of much illness. As this is no longer the priority of society, many causes of illness, physical and mental, have disappeared or are sharply reduced. The many stressors due to employment and unemployment only exist in history books and old novels.

Socialist healthcare is run by and for the working class. Patients are treated as humans needing care rather than as problems needing solving. Groundbreaking medications developed through social effort using ethical practices are freely given to those in need, rather than hoarded for private profit. Humans’ knowledge, skills and ingenuity contributes to the health and prosperity for all.

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## It's Now or Never (continued from back page)

In response, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned that investing in new fossil fuel production and power plants is “moral and economic madness.” This follows the stark statement by the International Energy Agency (formerly in favour of oil production) in 2021 that there should be “from today, no investment in new fossil fuel supply projects.”

Yet, mere weeks after the report’s release, what does Canada’s government do? It approves a new oil extraction project — the Bay du Nord project off Newfoundland’s coast. This decision exposes the dangerous fraud of the Liberals’ climate change policies. The net-zero emissions they claim are nothing but smoke and mirrors, based on an offset of planting trees or a dubious carbon capture scheme (CCS), which is expensive, unproven and energy intensive. In 2021 there were only 26 CCS plants operating globally, capturing about 0.1 percent of the annual global emissions from fossil fuels. Even if production was really net-zero, most of the CO<sub>2</sub> will still be released when the fuel is burnt.

This project’s approval confirms Trudeau’s hypocrisy, paying lip service to climate action. He is one of the new breed of “new climate deniers” that Seth Klein has called out. Further, he is exposing

Competition only exists in sport, not in working lives.

Under capitalism, mental health was seen as an individual problem. A socialist society acknowledges that mental health needs a holistic approach, using counselling, pharmaceuticals and lifestyle changes. Restoring well-being is tailored to the person, so everyone is treated as a full human being, rather than focusing just on one ailment separate from society.

Health and mental health care workers have *their* needs taken care of, so they fall back in love with their work. The few mental health wards that still exist have been transformed into places of hope and personal growth. The removal of the stigma of mental health, and illness in general, has helped to heal the alienation and metabolic rift of the capitalist past. So many great artists with mental illnesses were hounded to the grave by this emptiness. In this Socialist world, Kurt Cobain, Sylvia Plath and many more would still be creating great art. ★



himself as a true carbon pimp to the world and a “fossil fool.”

Capitalism and its lackeys are sticking their heads in the sand because to acknowledge the truth about climate science means choosing to prioritize the well-being of many over the profits of a few. They are beholden to a system that rapes the earth and extracts what it can — minerals, coal, gas, oil — to feed the rapacious appetites of the extractors and their financiers, leaving death and destruction in their wake.

Time’s up! We need to stand up to the carbon pimps and fossil fools of the world. We are many and they are few. This means overthrowing capitalism and creating a socialist world that recognizes that humans are a fundamental part of nature. Our survival depends on caring for both ourselves and nature: this caring is one and the same. We owe it to future generations to heed these words of Marx:

Even an entire society, a nation, or all simultaneously existing societies taken together, are not the owners of the earth. They are simply its possessors, its beneficiaries, and have to bequeath it in an improved state to succeeding generations. ★



**Leslie Kemp**

Almost two centuries after Karl Marx warned about the alienation of human society from nature, capitalism and its lackeys continue to plunder the earth. As long as capitalism has held its ironclad grip on the political and economic system, it has prevailed over nature. Marx described nature as “man’s inorganic body.” “Man lives from nature ... he must maintain a continuing dialogue with it if he is not to die.”

From the time of the industrial revolution to the present finance-capital based economy, human labour and nature has fed the insatiable and predatory machine of capitalism. Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*, published in 1962, was both a warning for life on the planet and a call to action. This ground-breaking work planted the seeds for a social revolution that never really took root. The capitalist system was too entrenched.

Yet more people than ever are asking this key question: *is capitalism compatible with continued human existence?*

The world is on the edge of a cliff. Urgent action is necessary before it is too late. The 2022 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

report plainly states: “It’s now or never, if we want to limit global warming to 1.5°C. Without immediate and deep emissions reductions across all sectors, it will be impossible.”

The report describes the already “irreversible impacts as natural and human systems are pushed beyond their ability to adapt.” The long list of predicted outcomes of capitalism’s march to climate disaster are spelled out clearly: physical water availability, biodiversity loss and degradation, threats to food production and access, ill health, premature deaths, damage to key urban infrastructure, intensification of heavy precipitation and associated flooding, tropical cyclones, drought, sea levels rising and involuntary migration.

Greenhouse gas emissions must peak by 2025, and then be halved this decade, according to the IPCC, to give the world a chance of limiting future heating to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. If this doesn’t happen the world faces a catastrophic increase of 3°C.

